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Including The Downtown News, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper and Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper

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**The Brooklyn Papers** FOR 25 YEARS

# MTA LUNTS D'TOWN DIGS

## Seek Jay St. alternative here

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

They may be leaving their home on Jay Street, but the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is still looking for new digs in Brooklyn.

The agency is touring locations in Downtown Brooklyn, DUMBO and Fort Greene, sources told The Brooklyn Papers this week.

One of the most viable spaces the MTA may seek could be at 25 Elm Pl. between Fulton and Livingston streets after the city's Department of Finance (DOF) moves out.

In November, the DOF gave

### EXCLUSIVE

notice that it would relocate 540 employees from 136,000-square-foot over three floors to facilities in Lower Manhattan and to 345 Adams St. and 210 Joralemon St., in Downtown Brooklyn. The agency is expected to vacate its offices by May 2004.

"The basic reason for the move is that based on the reorganization of the agency... we are consolidating some of our services," Roberto Roman, a spokesman for the DOF said.

The MTA toured 25 Elm Pl. said George Silva, of J.W. Mays

Inc., which owns the building, in pursuit of 100,000-square-foot of office space.

Silva said it was only a preliminary search and that the MTA did not indicate what they would like to use the offices for, but he noted he felt it was a perfect match in exchanging one civic use for another.

"If they take over, they're going to be great tenant," Silva said.

The MTA also showed interest in another space owned by J.W. Mays at 9 Bond St., Silva said.

He indicated the MTA was only interested in about 25,000-square-foot of the building's

See **ROUNTRIP** on page 4

# Farina's cream of the crop

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Mayor Michael Bloomberg named Community School District 15 Superintendent Carmen Farina as one of 10 regional superintendents who will lead the city's public school system starting July 1.

At the mayor's announcement in City Hall on Monday, Farina said she hoped the changes she made during three years at the helm of Brownstone Brooklyn's District 13 will carry over to the new region.

"We're just joining a larger family," said Farina, who will now be overseeing 80,000 students instead of 20,000.

Under Bloomberg's restructuring of the schools, Districts 13, 14,

15 and 16 will become District 8, with Farina in charge. The new district includes Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Sunset Park, Red Hook, Kensington, Windsor Terrace, Boerum Hill, Downtown Brooklyn, Fort Greene, DUMBO, Prospect Heights, Crown Heights, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, and portions of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights.

Farina will be based at Department of Education headquarters in the Tweed Court House in Manhattan. Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio, who has two children in public schools, said he was thrilled with Farina's appointment.

"I have a little bit of regret, as she steps up to her new larger role, that she will be further away from the schools of District 15, but thank God she's staying in Brooklyn," DeBlasio said.

Farina has been working in public schools for over 30 years. As a curriculum coordinator in District 15, she authored a multicultural program that was replicated in every district in the city.

As part of his sweeping overhaul of the school system, the mayor is replacing 32 community school districts with 10 instructional leadership divisions called Learning Support Centers. These centers will each be guided by a regional superintendent who will work to

See **FARINA** on page 6



Carmen Farina at City Hall on Monday.

# Terrorist target

## Judge sez OEM puts boro in crosshairs

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

Citing an increased threat of terrorist attack, the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York has come out against plans to house the headquarters of the city's Office of Emergency

Management (OEM) at 154 Cadman Plaza East in Downtown Brooklyn.

"At the request of the Board of Judges for the United States District Court of New York, the United States Marshals Service (USMS) conducted a review of the proposed construction of the New York City [OEM] headquarters at the old Red Cross site

in Brooklyn," wrote Chief Judge Edward Korman, in a letter dated Jan. 7 to Borough President Marty Markowitz, who is currently considering the proposal. "The focus of the study was to determine how the construction of this facility would impact the security of the United States Courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East."

Korman wrote that the review indicates that the OEM's presence, "increases the likelihood of a terrorist attack. The basis for this assertion can be found in the Al Qaeda manuscript which specifically mentions bombing courthouses, state and local emergency operations centers, bridges, subway, academic institutions, and government facilities."

The letter adds that the increased traffic would aggravate the USMS' patrol of the perimeter around the federal courthouse, especially in the event of an emergency, and the agency's necessary supply of fuel would

See **TARGET** on page 5

# Marty boos 'roo movie



Kangaroo Jack

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

An Australian marsupial has gotten Marty's goat.

Borough President Marty Markowitz is calling the box office hit, "Kangaroo Jack," "an insult to everybody who lives in Brooklyn."

In a letter to Chairman and CEO of Warner Brothers, Barry Meyer, Markowitz wrote, "To imply that Brooklyn is riddled with crime and that Benshoen is a haven of mob activity is just plain wrong."

The film features Charlie Carbone (Jerry O'Connell), a Benshoen hair dresser whose Mafia step-father (Christopher Walken) sends him and a friend, Louis Fucci (Anthony Anderson) on a wild goose chase to the Australian Outback to deliver \$500,000 to a mysterious Mr. Smith.

On the way, the two encounter a bevy of pitfalls including flat tires, but the real stumbling block comes when Carbone and Fucci accidentally leave their mob money in the hands of an

See **ROO** on page 5

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

The Central branch of the Brooklyn Public Library ushered in the Year of the Ram a week early with a Chinese New Year celebration on Saturday.

Organizers estimated that nearly 300 people attended the hour-long event where musicians and dancers entertained families. A magician wowed children as he changed blank white paper into dollars.

Traditionally, every new year elders pass money in red envelopes to the younger generation for good luck. But Frank Xu, Division Chief of the Multi-Lingual Center at the

Central Library and one of the organizers of Saturday's event, said the library distributed envelopes with candy instead. "But nobody seemed to mind," Xu said.

Brooklyn will be hosting a slew of other activities during the Chinese New Year, which officially begins on Feb. 1 and lasts 15 days.

The Brooklyn United Chinese Association is planning a lion dance parade on Feb. 8 starting at 86th Street and 20th Avenue in Benshoen at 11 a.m.

Daniel Lun, the association's president, said the dancers, who are part of a professional martial arts school, will move along 86th Street all the way to 25th Av-

enue. They will then head over to Bay Parkway and 65th Street, where they'll march along Bay Parkway to 72nd Street. All the while, they'll be collecting "fortune money" from merchants and wishing them, *lung hei fai choi*, or happy new year.

The Brooklyn Chinese-American Association is organizing a New Year's parade on Feb. 9 at noon starting in front of 50th Street and Eighth Avenue and continuing to 60th Street.

Betty Lee, who teaches citizenship classes at the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association, said the parade is one of the traditions that marks hope and happiness

See **RAM** on page 5

# Library kicks off 'Year of the Ram'

## Brrr-ooklyn Brrr-idge

The East River was particularly frosty on Sunday as ice floes lined the banks during a brief break in a stretch of particularly cold weather. The weekend ahead looks to warm up a bit, but snow and rain are also in the forecast.

The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Gullen



Magician Jin Sheng delights children at the Central Library Saturday as part of Chinese New Year celebrations.

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Marigo

# 11-digit dialing begins Saturday

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

New Yorkers better start flexing their digits.

Starting Feb. 1, all New York City residents will have to dial "1," plus the area code, plus the seven digit phone number when making any phone call.

In the past, area code dialing was only required when calling outside of your own area code.

According to Verizon, the city's largest phone service provider, the change is being made because Federal Communications Commission rules require that 11-digit phone numbers be used when a geographic region has more than one area

Cell phones, fax machines, and separate Internet lines spurred the proliferation of area codes in New York City, which now include the original 212, along with 718, 917, 347, and 646.

The new area code structure can affect a range of preprogrammed phone devices for both homes and businesses, including

auto dialing systems, computer modems and security systems.

Those systems will have to be reprogrammed to dial 11 digits as opposed to seven.

The New York State Consumer Protection Board (SCB)—one of New York's top consumer watchdogs—tried to block the move claiming it was a matter of the state, not the federal government to decide.

The SCB lost that lawsuit in 2001, but managed to secure an eight-month delay. "It's not the worst of all consumer inconveniences, but it's going to be a change for folks and for some businesses it means a cost," said SCB spokesperson John Sorensen.

Verizon is putting a pleasant spin on the new procedure.

"Think of your phone number as a 10-digit number," it suggests on its online guide. "Now more than ever, when you give someone your phone number, be sure to include your area code. This includes business cards, stationery, advertising signage and voice messaging systems." Verizon said.

# Eye ex-prez of School District 13 in probe linking pols to jail firm

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

The investigation into Fort Green Assemblyman Roger Green's relationship to the Correctional Services Corporation (CSC) has reportedly implicated a former president of Community School Board 13.

Frank Chris Jackson, who resigned as Board 13 president in December 1999, was vice president of CSC until 2000 when, according to press reports this week, he was arrested in the Dominican Republic on child pornography charges.

CSC operates private correctional facilities under contract with the state. District 13 includes Brooklyn Heights, Fort Greene, DUMBO, Vinegar Hill, Clinton Hill and portions of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

When the President's Council and Jackson bickered, Assem-

blyman Green unsuccessfully tried to bring peace.

Eventually Jackson resigned. The Daily News reported on Sunday that investigators believe Jackson arranged rides between their districts and Albany for Green and former Assemblywoman Gloria Davis of the Bronx.

Jackson, and Green attorney Gerald Shargel, could not be reached for comment. Last month, Davis resigned her post and pleaded guilty to bribery in exchange for a recommended sentence of 90 days in jail and four and one-third years probation, for accepting free transportation from the company as well as accepting a \$24,000 bribe to steer an \$880,000 construction project in her district to JPM Associates.

Green admitted that he accepted free transportation from CSC and may include legislation.

The case is also reportedly being looked at by the state Lab-

bying Commission, the state Ethics Committee, the state Board of Elections and the legislature's Ethics Committee.

The U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI reportedly turned over a 50-page report to the state legislature's Ethics Committee about campaign services provided by CSC to New York officials including David Dinkins, Mario Cuomo, Al Sharpton and Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Reform-minded Democrats in Brooklyn are also turning up the heat on law enforcement.

After speaking to Democratic county committee members in the 52nd Assembly District on Thursday, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer was stopped in the aisle by Susan Luch, president of the Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats.

"I'm very concerned about illegal campaign contributions and accusations and investigations

See **PROBE** on page 6

denied it won the company any favors from him.

He did, however, reportedly collect \$11,274 in reimbursements for travel expenses from the state Assembly since 1999, according to the News.

The Brooklyn District Attorney looked into the matter and subsequently dropped its investigation last week.

"We had a preliminary investigation and we concluded that we do not have jurisdiction over that case," said Jerry Schmetterer, a spokesman for District Attorney Charles Hynes. "Filings ... regarding those rides would have been filed in Albany and the Albany D.A. is now looking into that case."

The Albany County District Attorney, Paul Clyne, told reporters this week that his criminal probe will begin with CSC and may include legislation.

The case is also reportedly being looked at by the state Lab-



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## Chinese dishes at Maimonides

### Maimonides Medical Center

It doesn't come in a white takeout box, and it's not accompanied by a fortune cookie, but patients at Maimonides Medical Center are now able to enjoy authentic Chinese cuisine during their stay.

As part of its ongoing effort to ensure that each patient's stay is comfortable, Maimonides recently introduced a number of Chinese dishes as a service to the rapidly growing Asian community in southwest Brooklyn. (According to U.S. Census data, the Asian population in this area increased by more than 100 percent from 1990 to 2000.)

While the new menu options, which include beef stir fry with vegetables, sautéed gingered fish, chicken lo mein and congee with meat, are available to any patient of the medical center, they were introduced specifically with the needs of the Asian community in mind.

"At Maimonides, we recognize that high-quality medical care demands respect for and attention to each patient's culture," says Maimonides President and CEO Stanley Breznoff. "As such, we are constantly working with local leaders to create services and amenities that appeal to our entire patient population, which is among the most diverse in the nation. Adding Chinese dishes is a prime example of this important mission."

Merely giving patients additional food choices was not enough for Maimonides. The medical center also brought in Rosa Ross, a certified culinary professional, caterer and Chinese cookbook author, to provide its food services personnel with an eight-week course on the art of authentic Chinese cuisine. Rather than merely exploring recipes, Maimonides cooks were given an in-depth instruction on ingredi-

ents and cooking techniques, such as steaming, as well as pointers on how to adapt the hospital's kitchen and equipment for Chinese cuisine.

According to Director of Food Nutrition Patrick Lamont, who oversees the preparation of 3,500 meals daily, the initiative has been a total team effort.

"Our Chief Dietitian Dr. Alvin Steinfeld adapted the meals to meet the nutritional needs of our patients, such as those cardiac patients who require a low-sodium diet. Janice Yang, our Director of Asian Community Outreach, provided feedback on samples and helped develop Chinese language menus. My colleague Eric Adkowitz, who is our resident expert on kosher food, ensured each ingredient and

preparation met with kosher requirements," notes Mr. Lamont.

Once the cooking classes had concluded, the Chinese menus had been set, and each meal checked to ensure they met with strict dietary and kosher standards it was time to put all of the hard work and preparation to the ultimate test.

Maimonides invited prominent members of the Asian community, as well as executive staff members for a luncheon in the boardroom. The menu, of course, consisted of four new Chinese food items.

According to Mr. Lamont, who is quick to point out that a patient need not be Asian to enjoy the new Chinese food items, the reviews were universally positive. In fact, he says that no one seemed to notice the differ-

ence in the food despite efforts to make it more nutritionally compatible with the dietary needs of hospitalized patients.

The introduction of Chinese dishes and menus printed in Chinese is one element in Maimonides' larger campaign. Maimonides also now has:

- Mandarin and Cantonese speaking patient representatives in the Emergency Department every day, around the clock.
- One hundred-fifty-two staff physicians, nurses, medical assistants and support staff who are fluent in Chinese dialects and work throughout the hospital and in Maimonides clinics.
- Additional night hours at

the Eighth Avenue clinic for patients' greater convenience.

A new 24-hour, 7-day-a-week information telephone line — (718) 283-6898 — has been established to answer questions from Chinese-speaking residents about Maimonides' comprehensive range of services.

## Low-vision awareness

### Lighthouse International

In recognition of Low Vision Awareness Month during February, Lighthouse International urges people with impaired vision, their families and friends to learn about the benefits of vision rehabilitation. In the United States alone, 16.5 million persons over age 45 report having vision loss, according to "Lighthouse National Survey on Vision Loss."

People who lose sight as adults can continue to pursue their daily activities safely and independently, when they are equipped with the training, counseling and employment services provided through professional vision rehabilitation services.

Vision loss that cannot be corrected by ordinary glasses, contact lenses, medication or surgery is called "low vision."

While vision rehabilitation cannot restore sight, it can help to maximize any existing sight, as well as equip individuals with the techniques to maintain an independent lifestyle. A team of professionals, including low vision doctors, rehabilitation teachers and orientation and mobility specialists, social workers and employment specialists, provide individual-

ized instruction and guidance to achieve your personal goals. They work with people who are blind or partially sighted, as well as with family and friends, to improve the overall quality of life and restore lost function.

In observance of Low Vision Awareness Month, Lighthouse International offers some advice for people with vision impairment, their families and friends:

- See an eye doctor specialist in low vision. Low vision services, provided by specially trained optometrists and ophthalmologists, include an

eye exam to identify functional vision problems, an evaluation of remaining vision and the prescription of optical and other devices including magnifiers and telescopes, suited to your eye condition, activities and lifestyle;

- Be "in-the-know" about how rehabilitation teachers can help you remain independent at home.
- Call Lighthouse International's toll-free number at (800) 829-4200 or visit the Web site at [www.lighthouse.org](http://www.lighthouse.org) to locate vision rehabilitation services and other professional referrals in your area.

## Diabetes?

Are you caught between these two health problems? Then you may qualify for Look AHEAD, a National Institutes of Health research project studying the long-term benefits of weight loss in people with type 2 diabetes.

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## Overweight?

## Ambulance at Methodist

### New York Methodist Hospital

New York Methodist Hospital has unveiled a new service: "Pre-Hospital Care." Pre-Hospital care takes place immediately prior to and during an ambulance ride to the hospital.

The hospital has acquired two new ambulances, which will function as part of the New York City Fire Department's 911 emergency service and will primarily serve Park Slope and its surrounding neighborhoods.

One vehicle is equipped to provide basic life support and the other provides advanced life support.

New York Methodist Hospital, which has not had its own ambulances for many years, has partnered with New York-Presbyterian Hospital, which has its own fleet of ambulances. "This is an exciting and successful partnership which benefits the community," said Joseph Bove, MD, chairman of emergency medicine at New York Methodist Hospital.

The basic life support ambulance, staffed by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), will be on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The advanced life support ambulance, staffed by paramedics with advanced training in cardiac and medical emergencies, will be on call 16 hours a day, 7 days a week.

At any given time, there are approximately 325 ambulances operating in the New York City 911 system. The 911 service is composed of New York City Fire Department units and hospital-based ambulances, such as the new New York Methodist Hospital vehicles.

"Time is critical when responding to an emergency. With these two ambulances, the Hospital can provide care as quickly as possible to members of our community," said Michael Gutenberg, MD, director of pre-hospital care at New York Methodist. Dr. Gutenberg added that 10 to 15 percent of hospital patients require, or benefit from, pre-hospital advanced life support.

The addition will also benefit students at New York Methodist Hospital's Paramedic Program. The students, who complete 650 hours of classroom and lab work and 600 hours of clinical rotations before graduation, will have greater opportunities for hands-on experience.

"Classroom work is important, but nothing beats real-life clinical experience," said Dr. Gutenberg. "This service will enhance our ability to respond to medical emergencies and give our community members better access to the care they need," said Dr. Bove.

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# Angel to face music

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

Former Councilman Angel Rodriguez will appear for sentencing on Feb. 28 in federal court before Judge Frederic Block.  
Rodriguez's attorney, Ron Fischetti, said after the disgraced pol pleaded guilty that Rodriguez would explain during his sentencing why he demanded a \$50,000 bribe. Though Fischetti would not give any indication what the announcement may be, he said it would be a "mitigating" factor in Rodriguez's admitted guilt.  
On Aug. 29, 2002, Rodriguez, once a leading candi-

date for City Council speaker, and a childhood friend, Jonathan Morales, pleaded guilty to demanding a bribe of \$50,000 in cash and a \$15 million discount on property from Red Hook developer Greg O'Connell, in exchange for his favorable vote in the City Council on a massive Fairway supermarket proposal.

Rodriguez, who has been one of the most outspoken opponents of the Fairway plan in Red Hook, admitted that he changed his position for the payoff and accepted the first installment of the bribe in the sum of \$18,000.

Investigators caught the transfer of cash on tape.



Angel Rodriguez

"I made a mistake which I will atone for," Rodriguez told reporters outside the courtroom last August. "But I want

it known for the record that at no time did my actions compromise my constituents, who I love, nor the council."

Rodriguez and Morales pleaded guilty to extortion, extortion conspiracy and fraud, in exchange for a recommended sentence of 46 to 57 months, although the judge does not have to honor the agreement worked out between the defense and the prosecution.

The official sentencing will take place on Feb. 28 at 3:30 p.m.

Rodriguez's seat was filled by former Community Board 7 Chairwoman Sara Gonzalez in a special election last November.

# Thieves offer mark ride

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

A pair of con-men drove a 43-year-old man to misfortune on Jan. 24.

At around 10 am the victim had just cashed a check at an HSBC Bank on Ninth Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, when a gray car pulled up alongside him. The driver said, "Do you remember me? I'm your friend Tony, I used to live on the block."

The driver and another passenger offered the victim a ride and even granted him "shagun" near the window.

The victim was driven home to Sixth Street and Fifth Avenue. Before he was dropped off, the driver gave him his telephone number on a napkin.

When the victim departed, however, he realized the numbers on the napkin read, "11/2/12." He also realized his pockets had been picked of \$602.

### Silver service

A man was held up with cutlery on Fifth Street and Fourth Avenue on Jan. 21.

The victim, 27, told police he was on his way home at around 2 am when three men approached. One displayed a kitchen knife and went through the victim's pockets.

The trio took the victim's wallet containing identification, credit cards and a library card before they took off. No cash was reported stolen.

### Alarming

A burglar tripped an alarm in a fruitless venture to break into a 62-year-old man's home on Eighth Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West.

The prowler tried to cut the wires leading to the alarm system at around 3:42 am on Jan. 26, police said. The attempts to thwart the alarm were for naught, and when he tried to break through the front door, the alarm went off notifying police. The burglar skedaddled, however, before cops arrived.

### Costly call

A 28-year-old man was using a pay phone at the Fourth Avenue F, N, M and R-train station at Ninth Street when he

## 78 Precinct Blotter

was allegedly accosted by a mugger that plundered his pockets and made off with his cash.

The victim told police that at 2 pm on Jan. 22 the mugger grabbed him and said, "Give me your money now." The thief then allegedly rummaged through the victim's pockets and jumped on a departing F-train with \$250.

### Knight rider?

A 37-year-old man's 1987 Oldsmobile Cutlass went missing from its parking space on 14th Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

The owner parked the car on Jan. 26 at around 8:30 pm and returned to the spot the following morning at around 7:30 am to find his vehicle gone.

### Poor Lincoln

A man left his 1999 Lincoln with a 33-year-old friend while he was away.

The caretaker parked the vehicle on Third Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues at 2:30 pm on Jan. 23. By 6:15 am, the following day, the car had been pillaged and it's airbags were gone.

### Wrong answer

A woman was robbed on her way into her apartment on State Street between Bond and Nevins streets on Jan. 26.

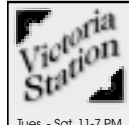
The victim told police she was opening her front door at 3 am when she was stopped by a man who asked her for a cigarette. When she answered that she didn't have one, he allegedly struck her face causing a laceration.

The mugger then grabbed the victim's purse containing

\$120, her credit cards, cosmetics, wallet and gloves, and ran.

### Stain lifter

Police busted a 23-year-old man reported to be prying his



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way into a Laundromat on Bergen Street off Nevins Street.

According to police a witness reported that the man was attempting to lift the business' metal security gate at around 11:30 pm on Jan. 24. Responding officers caught the suspect and took him into custody.

### Stool sample

A woman's purse was picked up in a bar on Smith Street on Jan. 26.

The victim stopped into the pub between Wyckoff and Warren streets at 3:30 am and placed her handbag on a bar stool. She said a woman was sitting next to the stool and the victim briefly lost sight of the bag while she hung up her jacket. When she returned the bag, and the woman, were gone.

### Albee robbed

A merchant in the Gallery at Fulton Street, formerly known as the Albee Square Mall, on DeKalb Avenue and Fulton Street, reported to police that someone reached into a display case and stole five cell phones, 60 belt buckles and three boxes of Yu-Gi-Oh cards, based on the Japanese animated series.

The 35-year-old merchant said someone between 9 am and noon, on Jan. 21, a thief made off with the items valued at \$2,350.

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6:30 - 8:30 pm

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# Lach adds Spark

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Sunset Park residents who live in the newly drawn 23rd state Senate district can now go to state Sen. Seymour Lachman's district office for help with constituent problems.

The temporary office located at 2424 Cropsy Ave. at 24th Avenue in Bensonhurst is ready to help constituents with problems ranging from Medicaid and Social Security to consumer affairs and quality of life issues, said Lachman's chief of staff, Lorin Wiener.

"We are excited to be able to offer our services to our Sunset Park residents," Wiener said. "While the office remains a temporary space until we move to a more centralized location, we want Sunset Park residents to know that we are eager and available to help them."

Because of last year's re-districting, which went into effect Jan. 1, Lachman now represents 62nd to 67th streets between First and Eighth avenues. That area was previously represented by state Sen. Marty Connor with slivers also represented by state Sen. Velma Montgomery and former state Sen. Vincent Gentile.

District lines are redrawn every 10 years.

Lachman's office recommends that before coming in, constituents contact them at (718) 449-1443 to confirm that they live in his district.

The office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:30 am to 4 pm and Friday 9:30 am to 2 pm. The nearest subway is the W at 25th Street.



# The Brooklyn Papers

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# Concomer left with little power in state Senate

By Patrick Gallahue

The Brooklyn Papers

The organization of the Democratic conference featured a bit of payback.

The new state Sen. Minority Leader David Paterson, of Manhattan, had a few modest posts for those who crossed county lines to help him out. Sen. Marty Connor of Brooklyn Heights from his leadership position last year.

Connor, however, who had been the conference's top dog since 1994, was left without any leadership titles in the party and was tapped only to serve as the ranking Democratic member on the local government panel.

"The jurisdiction of local government is over town or upstate," said Connor. "It's totally irrelevant, it doesn't have anything to do with New York City."

Though Connor's concession to Paterson appeared gracious last year, it was preceded by a week of back door wrangling between Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, of Manhattan, who supported Connor, and Rep. Charles Rangel, Rep. Al Anderson, and former Mayor David Dinkins, who backed Paterson.

When Connor ran for senate minority leader in 1994, he defeated state Sen. Emanuel Gold. Connor subsequently appointed Gold to become the ranking Democrat in the powerful finance committee.

"He was a senior member and able to do the job," Connor said.

"I'm not going to waste a lot of time ... I'd much rather deal with things relating to my constituents. And I will," Connor added.

Connor's position on the local government committee comes with a stipend of \$9,000, as opposed to his previous \$34,500 stipend which is added to the legislator's salary of \$79,500.

As minority leader he had been an ex-officio member of all the committees.

Paterson's office did not return calls for comment.

As members of the minority conference, Democrats do not retain leadership titles. The only state senator from Brooklyn to obtain a committee chairmanship from Republican Majority Leader Joseph Bruno is Republican state Sen. Marty Golden of Bay Ridge.

"Senator Bruno appointed Senator Connor chairman of the aging committee because he feels he has a very strong knowledge about senior citizens and the problems that they face," said Mark Hamen, a spokesman for Sen. Bruno. "Auntie has the talent and ability to address those problems."

Golden's position comes with a \$12,500 stipend.

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Gerry O'Brien, a Republican campaign consultant who worked on Golden's successful run for state Senate, said the coveted appointment was a prime opportunity for the first term senator to win over a valuable voting bloc.

"That's a big committee," O'Brien said. "When you think about the clot that exists here in New York City."

While Brooklyn senators did not fair overwhelmingly well—especially considering their defection—among those to take the biggest leaps in status was Park Slope, Windsor Terrace and Sunset Park state Sen. Carl Andrews, who rose to minority whip even though he's been in office for less than a year.

Andrews, whose post comes with a stipend of \$14,500, did not deny the presence of politics in his elevation but likened it to a campaign where, "we ask the electorate to vote for us based on our qualifications and our experience."

"Traditionally I think a lot of times positions are doled out based on seniority," said Andrews, who was elected last February to fill a vacancy in the 20th state Senate District after Marty Montgomery, Carl Kruger, John Sampson, Kevin Parker and Martin Malave-Dilan.

Sen. Seymour Lachman, who backed Paterson over Connor, including Sen. Velman Montgomery, Carl Kruger, John Sampson, Kevin Parker and Martin Malave-Dilan.

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Paterson made good on his pledge to allocate any Democrats from party leadership positions within the conference. Kruger was, however, made ranking member of the aging committee, chaired by Golden, who Kruger endorsed over incumbent Democrat Vinnie Gentile, and the veterans, homeland security and military affairs committee.

Paterson appointed Manhattan Sen. Eric Schneiderman, who helped orchestrate his coup, to be his deputy minority leader and Breslin to be the ranking member on the Senate's powerful finance committee.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

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# Marty: Let's be more polite

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

Better manners, a rematch for the best egg cream in Brooklyn, a National Basketball Association franchise and a new name for Fourth Avenue — in other words, it's Borough President Marty Markowitz's 2003 State of the Borough address.

While Gov. George Pataki's State of the State address was cast in shadow by the budget deficit and Mayor Michael Bloomberg's ensuing State of the City featured grim predictions about poten-

tial layoffs of municipal workers (see story, below), Markowitz's speech was a jovial affair that spent as much time discussing food as the budget crisis.

"When I came into office, I said that those of you who want substance, you'll find it here," Markowitz said. "And those of you who know me better won't be disappointed either. I hope you will agree that I've kept my word during my first year at Borough Hall."

In 2003 Markowitz is prepared to launch a campaign to educate the borough in etiquette, called "Respect — It's a Brooklyn Attitude."

For the youth, "if they learn to respect themselves they will respect others," Markowitz said, adding that as for every one else, it will "encourage greater civility, common courtesy and good manners in daily life."

It means giving up your seat on the subway to someone who needs it more than you do," he added. "And it means holding open the door for the person following you, instead of letting it slam in their face. Just think, it could be your mother."

Markowitz also announced a gospel festival coming to Borough Hall next month and restated his dream of bringing an NBA team to Brooklyn.

While his predecessor, former Borough President Howard Golden, longingly aspired to bring the Dodgers back to the Brooklyn, Markowitz has dumped the plan, stating it would be practically impossible to bring another baseball team to the Big Apple.

"Brooklyn deserves a sports team on a national stage," Markowitz said. "Major league sports owes Brooklyn for the great theft of 1957 when the devil — his name is O'Malley — stole the Dodgers out of Brooklyn in the middle of the night. That's why, until the door is finally slammed in my face, I will continue to fight for an NBA team for Brooklyn."

Markowitz also proposed a contest to rename Fourth Avenue, which runs from Flatbush Avenue in Park Slope through Sunset Park to Shore Parkway in Bay Ridge.

"I would like to ask you Brooklynites to come up with a new name for what I hope will become Brooklyn's next grand boulevard," he said. "From Downtown Brooklyn to Bay Ridge, Fourth Avenue has a great deal of unused and underutilized property, which could be transformed into attractive residential and retail development. Perhaps we'll have a borough campaign to rename it."

"It's the first I've heard of it," said Jerry Amerer, chairman of Community Board 6, which contains a sizable portion of the avenue. "You give me an exercise a better name than a number and it creates more appeal. It's a great idea. And no, I don't have any suggestions."

Amerer was among several hundred in attendance, including Rep. Nydia Velázquez, Assemblymembers from Millman and Helene Weinstein, Councilmembers David Clarke, Fred Lidier, James Davis, Simcha Felder, Yvette Yasky, Tracy Boyland, Diana Reyna and Kendall Stewart, and an official from the "outer borough," as Markowitz referred to it, Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields.

The borough president also lauded Carnival Cruise Lines' plan to turn Pier 7 in the Coney Island area into a \$120 million cruise ship terminal and parking garage.

"I recently met with representatives of Carnival, one of the world's largest cruise lines, who expressed a great deal of enthusiasm for establishing a terminal in Downtown Brooklyn's waterfront," Markowitz said, while donning a sailor's cap.

"I am very optimistic that a major cruise terminal will be built on Brooklyn's East River waterfront, making Brooklyn a port of call for some of the world's largest cruise ships ... I am working with the Port Authority and the city's Economic Development Corporation with a single goal to make this happen for Brooklyn."

The company is currently in discussions with officials for incentives to develop the pier. "He understands that business development and neighborhood development go hand in hand," said Kenneth Adams, president of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

Markowitz announced his plans for a second annual "Lighten Up Brooklyn" exercise and diet campaign in June, a Brooklyn Bridge to the World celebration which had been derailed last year because of a terrorist threat to the Brooklyn Bridge, a "Take Your Man to the Doctor Week" during which women will be encouraged to force their husbands to get prostate cancer screenings, and a tourist information booth in Borough Hall.

"Right now the city is helping us fund a tourism marketing effort that includes Brooklyn-centered information kiosks at key locations," he said. "We are opening a tourist information center right in Borough Hall that will distribute maps, posters and brochures touting Brooklyn's fabulous restaurants, museums, parks and galleries, our historic and architectural treasures, our innovative theaters and art organizations."

Markowitz's address was given only a few hours before the mayor's State of the City address. The Borough President called the proximity in time and location a "wonderful accident."

"I think the mayor is starting to realize that New York City begins in Brooklyn," he said.

## Mike: B'klyn business can be L.A. East

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

Mayor Michael Bloomberg smiled on Park Slope in his State of the City address Jan. 23, speaking glowingly about the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park development and his vision of a rezoned Downtown, while holding the affair at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in Prospect Heights.

Still cautious about layoffs, tax increases and the ongoing restructuring of the Department of Education, however, borough leaders responded with a watchful nod.

Bloomberg claimed that when Downtown Brooklyn's rezoning plan is complete, the amount of office space in the area will be comparable to that of Los Angeles, California.

"With the help of Borough President Marty Markowitz, we'll launch a Downtown Brooklyn development plan — a comprehensive rezoning of the city's third largest business district," the mayor said. "When completed it will make Brooklyn a rival of Los Angeles for office space. Take that for stealing our Dodgers!"

The Downtown Brooklyn Council, an outgrowth of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, has been consulting community organizations with a design to rezone three strips — Livingston Street, Flatbush Avenue Extension and Wil-

loughby Street — to become corridors of commercial, retail or residential activity. The plan seeks to rezone outdated manufacturing areas, increase building capacity and create height restrictions on residential strips.

Bloomberg allocated \$750,000 last summer to support a \$125 million Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the plan's effect on the surrounding community. The mayor's appropriation was added to an earlier \$500,000 allocation from then-Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, made about two years ago.

"I think it's going to be an exciting year for Downtown Brooklyn," said Jim Whelan, executive director of the Downtown Brooklyn Council who was in attendance. "Everybody realizes, on the administration's part, Brooklyn's critical role in job retention and in creating much needed housing for the city for a mix of incomes."

Whelan said the city is currently looking at adding another 5 million-square-foot of office space in the next 10 years "through very sensible land use changes" to the current sum of about seven million-square-foot of office space existing or under construction in Downtown Brooklyn.

The housing component seeks to create roughly 1 million-square-foot over 10 years, Whelan added. "I think economic develop-

ment in Downtown Brooklyn is a good thing as long as it's done in a way that doesn't affect the quality of life in the surrounding neighborhoods," said Downtown-Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky. "It doesn't have to and I'm sure he's committed to that."

Another Brooklyn reference that excited Yassky was Bloomberg's highlighting of the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park, a 1.3 mile commercial and recreational development between Jay and Joralemon streets.

"During 2003, we'll begin construction on the north end of Brooklyn Bridge, creating a continuous stretch of parkland between the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges," the mayor said.

Work is proceeding on a pebble beach surrounding Main Street Park, a playground completed in 2001 at the intersection of Main and Plymouth streets in DUMBO.

Bloomberg's broader initiatives, however, such as the 18.5 percent property tax hike, his plan to eliminate community school boards as means of streamlining the Department of Education's expensive and costly bureaucracy and the threat of layoffs to city workers.

"Everyone in this chamber and this city should understand, without productivity improvements, we will simply not be able to support the current labor force," the mayor said. "And will have no choice



Mayor Michael Bloomberg gives his State of the City speech at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Thursday. BY Colin

but to reduce our workforce faster than attrition and early retirement programs can accomplish.

"I think he has an appropriate and positive vision for the city in terms of economic future," said Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio. "But I think he glossed over the pain that many New Yorkers are going through. He made very scant mention of

city workers from layoffs.

"Personally, I don't think it's pushing Washington or Albany enough," said Fort Greene Councilman James Davis, who voted against the property tax hike and is organizing a march on Washington to push for more federal aid.

"He's the kind of guy, because he has built a billion dollar company himself ... who believes in pulling yourself up by your own boot straps."

Bloomberg did attempt to appease his listeners by addressing the property tax increase and imposition of Sunday metered parking and other revenue enhancers.

"I would not have asked the City Council to take these steps if it weren't absolutely necessary or if we had any practical alternatives," he said. "No one likes the imposition of taxes or budget cuts, the only choices the law allows. But devastating the very services that make this the world's second home is far worse than paying more and doing with less."

Borough's Staten Island Councilman James Oddo, who also voted against the tax hike, said, "Saying I feel your pain is great, and I think the man genuinely is making an attempt to show voters that he understands the pain of it. But you have to go beyond that with actual policies. And if we raise property taxes, or any taxes for that matter, come June that 'I feel your pain' will really ring hollow."

## 'ROO...

Continued from page 1  
animated kangaroo wearing Fucci's red "Brooklyn" jacket.

Markowitz said, "We as Brooklynites have way too much respect for ourselves, and our borough, to support these types of movies."

But Bensonhurst native Steven Schripa, who plays Bobby Bacala on the highly-acclaimed HBO series "The Sopranos," told the Brooklyn

Papers this week that it's time for Markowitz to wise up.

"I saw the movie. The movie stunk," said Schripa, who had auditioned for the film.

"C'mon, is there mob activity?" That's not what Bensonhurst is all about. And no, it's not riddled with crime. But don't tell me if you go to Bay Ridge that they're not around.

"I think Brooklyn is a good

place to live, I don't think it's riddled with crime, but let's not be naive, Marty."

In his letter to Meyer, Markowitz urged Warner Brothers to return to Brooklyn to film future movies that highlight the borough's better side. Markowitz wrote, "There is no more diverse place in America than Brooklyn, and that is why I was so impressed by these outlandish stereotypes."

"I realize the success of the movie might tempt me to make similar films, but, to use a favorite Brooklyn expression, fuggadabutt!"

## RAM...

Continued from page 1  
for the new year.

"In the tradition, people like to learn how to act or do things like the animal of the year," Lee said, adding that the ram, this year's annual, is known for being intelligent and gentle.

Families also often plan a large feat together on the first day of the new year, but Alan Mosk, of the Brooklyn United Chinese Association, said that tradition has been modified to

meet modern lifestyles.

"The day of the dinner depends on the kids because they have to work," Mosk said, noting that different parts of China have varying traditions.

New York City has included the Chinese New Year on the parking calendar this year due in part to legislation sponsored by Marty Golden in city council. On Feb. 11, alternate side of the street parking will be suspended.

poses it would not be considered relevant, even though they will, often times, submit their comments."

The City Planning Commission could not be reached for comment by press or telephone.

"The borough president has not yet submitted his recommendation report to the City Planning Commission," said Borough Hall spokesman Andrew Ross. "This is a very complex proposal dealing with one of the most important issues of the day, the safety and security of New York City including thousands of Brooklynites who live near the proposed site."

"The borough president is awaiting additional information from OEM and has been assured by the City Planning Commission that his recommendation report will be fully considered once it's submitted."

Ross would only say the report will be ready "soon."

City Planning, which has 60 days to make its recommendation, will be the next to consider the proposal and then the City Council will act if approved by the commission.

The mayor can then veto the City Council's ruling, but the mayor's veto can be overridden with a two-thirds majority vote by the council.

The OEM has been searching for permanent facilities since its former \$15 million command center on the 23rd floor of 7 World Trade Center was destroyed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack. The center was created to serve as a coordinating command post between different emergency agencies, such as the FDNY, NYPD, Sanitation and Emergency Medical Services, in case of any disasters.

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## TARGET...

Continued from page 1  
the plans to construct a five-story, 100-foot tall windowless command center to the community in October.

The plan was unanimously rejected by Community Board 2, and received harsh criticism from Yassky and the Conced Village Owners as well as the Brooklyn Heights Association.

Markowitz, meanwhile, was supposed to make a ruling on the matter earlier this month but has since missed his 30-day deadline to present his recommendation.

While Markowitz's office said they were assured by the City Planning Commission that his comments would be considered in the ULURP despite the delay, a City Council official said he was unaware of any provisions allowing an office extensions.

Alonso Carr, a project manager for the City Council's Land Use office, said he was not certain about the status of Markowitz's recommendation specifically, although he said if reports are submitted after the deadline, "for legal pur-

poses it would not be considered relevant, even though they will, often times, submit their comments."

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# Brooklyn Papers PARENT

## Slow speech can stem stuttering

Q: "How should parents and teachers handle stuttering problems of children who are about age 3?"  
—a preschool teacher

A: Many preschoolers go through a stuttering-like phase as they get carried away with wild ideas, new words and endless questions.

They need patient parents and teachers who give them eye contact, who don't rush them along, and who don't interrupt, says Helen Kaye, a speech-language pathologist.

"Language is really blooming at age 3 in terms of grammar and vocabulary," says Kaye. Often, stuttering is a phase where a child gets stuck as he tries to figure out, "OK, how do I say this?"

Speech missteps often come and go in three to six months during a period of rapid learning, but if your child continues to have problems beyond six months, he needs to be screened by a licensed speech-language pathologist, experts say. Also, if your child's stuttering becomes rapidly worse or he's obviously frustrated about it, seek a professional opinion.

"We teach children to slow down their rate of speech," Kaye says. "Parents have to learn to slow down their speech, too, and model it for

### Parent-to-Parent

By Betsy Flieger

Be aware of what seems to be a regular time each day when you can give your undivided attention to your child. During this time, let the child choose what he would like to do. Let him direct you in activities and decide himself whether to talk or not. When you talk during this special time, use relaxed speech, with plenty of pauses.

"Help all members of the family learn to take turns talking and listening. Children, especially those who stutter, find it much easier to talk when there are few interruptions and they have the listener's attention."

"Observe the way you interact with your child. Try to increase those times that give your child the message that you are listening to her and she has plenty of time to talk. Try to decrease criticisms, rapid speech patterns, interruptions and questions."

"Convey that you accept your child as he is. The most powerful force will be your support of him, whether he stutters or not."

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## SUPER

Continued from page 1

gather at Twined forming a "board of directors" with Deputy Chancellor of Teaching and Learning Diana Lam at the helm.

Each of these superintendents will have 10 local instructional supervisors, who will oversee no more than a dozen schools.

The nine other new Regional Superintendents include Irma Zarboya, Division 1, the Bronx; Lamm Rodriguez, Division 2, the Bronx; Judith Chin, Division 3, Queens; Reyes Irazani, Division 4, Brooklyn and Queens; Kathleen Cashin, Division 5, Queens and Brooklyn; Gloria Buckner, Division 6, Brooklyn; Michelle Franti, Division 7, Brooklyn; Shelley Harway, District 9, Manhattan; Lucille Swans, Division 10, Manhattan.

Two of Brooklyn's 12 school superintendents have already announced their retirements—Vincent Grippo and John Comer from districts 20 and 22. District 25 Superintendent, Kathleen Cashin, will leave the new Division 5, which will encompass parts of Brooklyn and Queens.

District 21 superintendent Ethel Tucker, who has been at the district for over 30 years, was informed of the mayor's decision one hour before he made the announcement on Monday morning.

"I don't know whether the mayor's plan will work as it's supposed to, but I just hope that it will be something that will help the children achieve their potential," said Tucker who has no plans to retire, but has not yet been offered another position with the agency.

Department of Education spokeswoman Paul Rose said the agency systematically evaluated all of the superintendents before selecting just 10.

"We tapped the best educators in our system and looked for instructional ability and leadership and ability to resolve problems and issues with creative solutions. Diana Lam spent a significant amount of time visiting schools and speaking with and observing current leadership and she made recommendations to the chancellor," Rose said.

## PROBE

Continued from page 1

that go nowhere," Loeb said. "You have a public integrity department in your office. What can we do about making sure that investigations don't drop dead?"

"I can't do anything without investigations that other people do," Spitzer said. "We have jurisdiction when we get a referral and when we have jurisdiction, we pursue everything."

"We have this supposed Board of Ethics that is supposed to look at ethical officials who are taking contributions from CSC and judges that are not doing what they are supposed to do here in Brooklyn," Loeb continued. "You know about that, who are we supposed to report it to?"

"The state Ethics Commission would have to refer it to us, and we have pursued many matters that they have referred to us," Spitzer answered. "Other executive agencies can and could, and that is when we pursue them... An individual citizen doesn't give any time or money to the way the states are written."

Though Spitzer's office told The Brooklyn Papers last week that his office "was not involved in that issue," it was leaked to the Post — after his conversation with Loeb — that he is "training at the bar" to begin his own inquiry.

CSC, which operates halfway houses in the Bronx and Brooklyn, has received over \$20 million in contracts from the state Department of Correctional Services over the past decade.

After Republican Gov. George Pataki succeeded Democrat Mario Cuomo, he began to phase out funds for the halfway houses but Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver rescued the facilities with discretionary funds totaling almost \$2 million over three years.

He said he did so at the urging of his colleagues in the legislature.

Besides pressuring Silver, Democrats wrote almost three dozen letters in 1997 and 1998 to Glenn Good, commissioner of the New York State Department of Correctional Services, urging the agency to renew contracts with CSC that were about to expire.

Among the legislators to speak on behalf of the company was then-state Sen. and current Borough President Marty Markowitz. Assemblyman Clarence Nassim, who is also chairman of the Kings County Democratic Committee, then-Assemblyman Al Vann, who is now a City Councilman; state Sen. John Sampson; Assemblyman Felix Ortiz; Assemblyman Vin Lopez; Assemblyman Joseph Lentol; Assemblyman Nick Perry; state Sen. Ada Smith and Assemblyman Daryl Towns.

CSC was formerly known as Essex Correctional Services but changed its name after a 1995 riot at an INS detention facility in Elizabeth, NJ was widely criticized for inhumane conditions within the facility and inmate abuse at the hands of poorly trained guards.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • January 27, 2003

# Miller's time

Makeover for one of boro's oldest diners

By Tina Barry

For The Brooklyn Papers

Miller's Famous Restaurant in Borough Park has undergone a radical facelift. Joe Miller, son of Michael "Mike" Miller (the second owner of Miller's Famous Restaurant) and the grandson of Chris Miller (originally Christopher Mylonopoulos of Cypress), the restaurant's founder, is the new co-owner. With John Odorisio, a patron of Miller's since childhood and a butcher with 20 years of meat-cutting experience, the two transformed the aging restaurant, a neighborhood institution since 1947, into a gleaming replica of a 1950s diner.

"I was adamant that the new design should stand out from other diners," says Miller.

It does. Surrounded by stores whose facades were new 30 years ago, the refurbished restaurant, with its shining red-and-white tiled exterior edged in chrome, looks more like something you'd see along Route 66 than a diner nestled under the shadow of the old El train track.

"Even the design of the tiles on the wall are a replica of a subway station," says Miller, who sketched his ideas on a napkin before consulting an architect.

To expand the diner's seating capacity from 35 to 75, Miller designed two replica subway cars and had them built on site and attached to the outside of the diner. Patrons can now enjoy a hamburger, comfortably seated in one of the deep, red vinyl booths, while looking out the train's window.

Continuing the subway motif, a miniature train runs along a track that hangs directly over the funky, '50s-style chrome counter.

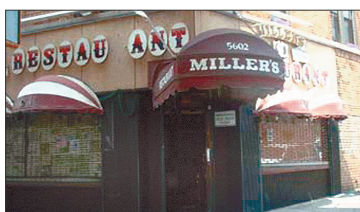
"We want people to be reminded of a Manhattan restaurant," Miller says of the renovation, then adds, "but we don't have Manhattan prices. Two guys can eat here like kings. We give a lot of love. That's what we're known for."

Chef Miller will do the cooking following the recipes handed down from his father and grandfather. His four-course dinner special, served each evening, features a fruit cup or cup of soup du jour, an entree of prime roast sirloin, turkey, ham or brisket served with a potato and vegetable, coffee or tea and Jell-O or rice pudding—all for \$8.95.

"Never leave the restaurant hungry" was my grandmother Electro's motto, and it's our motto as well," Miller adds.

Serving quality cooking in enormous portions is a practice Miller intends to continue.

"Everything here is homemade. We make our own corned beef, our own brisket. We cook our own roast beef, our own fresh ham and our own turkey. When someone orders a turkey sandwich, I'm cutting them turkey that I roasted that morning. Nothing is pre-made!" Miller says with pride.



New look for old friend: (Top) The newly renovated Miller's Famous Restaurant at New Utrecht Avenue and 56th Street. (Above) The restaurant before its makeover. (Right) Owner-chef Joe Miller's cherry-lime Rickey.

He hopes that Miller's Famous Restaurant will be considered a destination for hamburger aficionados the way Nathan's hush-bob dog lovers to Coney Island.

"We closed [in June 2002] with an 8-ounce burger, and that's a pretty nice size. Now we have the biggest with our 9-ounce burger, and it's delicious — juicy and so fresh," he says.

Special bragging rights apply to the diner's Greek salad.

"We make a Greek salad like nobody else," says Miller.

"We use hand-boiled eggs but no anchovies. We put in the eggs, and the feta cheese, and the oil and vinegar and the olives, and we turn the salad ourselves. We mix it together like they do in Greece, in the old town. We are famous for our Greek salads."

Disappointing customers who might compare him unfavorably to his predecessors isn't an option for Miller.

"People come in here, and they see a young kid — I'm 32 years old," explains Miller. "And if they say, 'Oh, the kid made it all fancy but the food stinks,' then

I have no business. I'm feeding people who, my grandparents served 50 years ago."

As if on cue, an older couple, with unmistakable Brooklyn accents, walks in.

"Hey, Hey Joe?" they say. "Whaz Jimmy Bow's picture?"

"That's his brother," says the man pointing to his wife.

"Yeah," she says. "Jimmy was the baltendab at the El-al-gont. Yaw fatha had thah pictuash hangin' behin' the counta for a thousan' yeas."

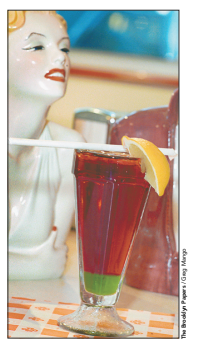
Miller promises to re-hang Jimmy Bow's picture before the diner's Jan. 18 opening. "If God is willing."

The couple leaves happy.

"This is perfect!" says Miller. "This is not staged! If you stay here all day, you'll see people dropping in saying, 'I remember your grandmother!' They tell me, 'When I came to America we couldn't afford to eat. Your grandmother used to give us french fries with cheese and a lime Rickey.' [The lime Rickey is still on the menu.] She never let anyone leave without being fed."

"Tell Tina how long you've been coming here," Miller asks Al, the diner's fruit man, who wanders in to say hello to Mike and "the boys."

"Oh," says Al. "Like, 40 years! I knew



Joe Miller, owner-chef, holds his signature cherry-lime Rickey.

his grandparents when his father was this big." He holds his hand near his knee.

Patrons who remember the original Miller's, which opened in 1947 on 13th Avenue at New Utrecht Avenue, and have seen the restaurant evolve since 1957 in its present location on the corner of New Utrecht Avenue and 56th Street, needn't worry about a rocky transition. After 36 years of 18-hour days, the still youthful Mike Miller has retired, but he plans to continue as a consultant, whenever "the boys" need him, and adds, "They and John are both young and they have a lot of incentive. The diner will be better."

When I visited, the kitchen was not yet open, so instead of food, Miller searched for gifts for "The train ride back home."

He gave me a large polo shirt with the Famous Miller's logo — a train — on its back; a wooden massager in the shape of a bird; a plastic key chain; and a denim, snap-bracelet for my daughter.

"You have to leave with something," he says, "so you don't forget us."

## DINING



## Pre-show eats

Four-star, wanderkind chef Thomas Ferlesch (pictured), most recently of Cafe des Artistes and before that Vienna 79, has opened his first restaurant, Thomas Beisl, across Lafayette Avenue from the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

"In Vienna," says Ferlesch, "bistros serve the young and the old, intellectuals and students, plumbers, doctors, artists, everyone. It makes a wonderful atmosphere." It is just that "some one, come all" spirit that Ferlesch hopes his Thomas Beisl (beisl means bistro) will be to the Fort Greene neighborhood.

Ferlesch did most of the renovation himself, stripping and staining antique chairs that he picked up on Atlantic Avenue. The lighting is moody and romantic with amber-tinted sconces and candles on the tables.

Thomas Beisl's location — there's BAM of course, Mark Morris' dance studio is up the street, and Urban Glass, a glass-blowing studio, is a few blocks away — all but ensures an art-loving crowd. Plans on seeing black-clad diners eating velvet, eggplant terrine topped with goat cheese or a seafood salad with scallops, parsley and jalapenos. Wiener schnitzel with cucumber salad and parsley potatoes, and beef goulash made with braised beef cheeks and served with spaetzle, are among the entrees.

No one skips dessert in a Viennese restaurant. (What do you think inspired the Viennese dessert table at all those Bar Mitzvahs?) There's palatschinken, crepes stuffed with apricot jam or chocolate hazelnut cream, and a Linzertorte. Ask for the torte mit schlag — that's with whipped cream.

Thomas Beisl (25 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street) accepts American Express. Entrees: \$13-\$16. The restaurant is open daily from noon to midnight, and serves brunch Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 am to 4 pm. For reservations, call (718) 222-5800.

— Tina Barry

## MUSIC

## Pied piper

Omni Ensemble's flutist broadens audience for eclectic classical music

By Kevin Filipski

For The Brooklyn Papers

"For our 20th anniversary season, we wanted to do music that we liked," explains flutist David Wechsler, a native of Midwood and founder of the Omni Ensemble, which has brought chamber music of all stripes to enthusiastic Brooklyn audiences for two decades.

Omni Ensemble's upcoming concert, Feb. 1 at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, pits two giants of the 18th and early 19th centuries — Bach and Beethoven — with a tripartite rate of French composers from the 20th century — Claude Debussy, Albert Roussel and Jacques Ibert.

The eclectic program is par for the course for the ensemble, says Wechsler. "One of the reasons I started this group to begin with is that there are certain contemporary and 20th-century music that people would want to hear."

Along with Wechsler, the Omni Ensemble includes cellist Sara Wollan — who's been with the group for four seasons, and pianist Jim Lohr, a composer who joined the ensemble at the beginning of last season.

Wechsler and pianist John Creek started the group in 1983.

Pairing weighty works by two acknowledged masters with lesser-known but no less forceful music by three 20th-century Frenchmen is typical of the ensemble's programming method: its first concert this season included works by Ravel and Richard Strauss alongside Norman Dello Joio's 1948 Trio and pianist Lohr's own Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano.

Wechsler enjoys finding works that fit the players' sensibilities, including the great artists for this concert, violin Sam Kephart and harpist Laura Sherman.

The Bach G-minor sonata (originally for flute and harpsichord) is done with a transcription for harp, he notes. "Since the pedaled harp is relatively recent invention — it came into use in the mid-19th century — there's no baroque music written specifically for it."

Also being performed in a transcription for harp is Beethoven's "So you don't forget us."

See OMNI on page GO 4



Be our guest: Harpist Laura Sherman is one of the guest artists performing with the Omni Ensemble on Feb. 1.

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Sonata in D major, KV 576 . . . . . W. A. Mozart  
Sonata no. 3 in B minor, op. 58 . . . . . Frédéric Chopin  
Six Salon Pieces . . . . . Rudolf Friml  
Five Foxrots . . . . . George Gershwin  
Rhapsody in Blue . . . . . George Gershwin

**Sunday, January 26, 2003 at 3 PM**

Tickets: \$15 available at the door, 6 for \$70.  
Students: \$5. TDF vouchers accepted  
Information: (718) 855-3053 and (212) 825-1221

Sara Davis Buechner, the highest-ranking American prizewinner of the 1980 International Tchaikovsky Competition, has established herself as one of today's most exciting and innovative pianists. In her twenties, she was prizewinner in numerous international piano competitions: Queen Elizabeth, Leeds, Salzburg, Sydney, Vienna and Vlna del Mar. She was the Grand Prixwinner of the 1984 Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition.



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HOURS: Mon-Thurs: 11-11pm; Fri-Sat: 11-12pm; Sun: 3-10pm

# Play it again, Sam

## Mendes directs, and Emily Watson stars in top-notch double-bill at BAM Harvey

By Lisa J. Curtis

The Brooklyn Papers

On Saturday night, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theater, theatergoers gazed stary-eyed at actors Harvey Keitel, Bernadette Peters, Kate Winslet, Frances McDormand and Nathan Lane. And they were just in the audience.

The giants of the Great White Way came out for the Donmar Warehouse production of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." Both "Twelfth Night" and Donmar's "Uncle Vanya" are directed by Sam Mendes ("Cabaret," "American Beauty"), and his efforts were met with standing ovations and three curtain calls each—and for good reason.

Both "Twelfth Night" and "Uncle Vanya" will be presented in repertory at BAM through March 9. (On six Saturdays it will be possible to see both "Twelfth Night" and "Uncle Vanya" with a matinee and evening performance.) The comic "Twelfth Night," however, can't help but seem less important than the powerfully affecting "Uncle Vanya."

The lead actors all play roles in both productions. David Bradley's transformation from the self-centered and haughty retired professor, Alexander Serenbyakov, in "Uncle Vanya" to his utterly long-limbed buffoon, Sir Andre Aguecheik, in "Twelfth Night" is astounding. In the latter, Bradley almost seems to deliver the punch lines

physically, embodying the comedy of a Charlie Chaplin or Jerry Lewis.

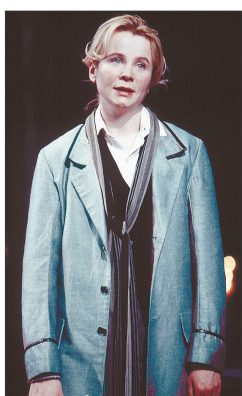
Selma Cadell's metamorphosis from disapproving mother of Uncle Vanya to the saucy gentlewoman Maria in "Twelfth Night" has an equally jaw-dropping effect.

Of the two plays, Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya" (newly updated by Brian Friel) is especially delightful—albeit in a mournful way. The workaday world of Uncle Vanya's estate is turned on its ear by the arrival of the professor and his young wife, Yelena, played by Helen McCrory.

Even the train of Yelena's skirt is a delight; McCrory makes it twirl like the tail of a strutting cat. Cedeos should also go to costume designer Mark Thompson. When McCrory, as Olivia, comes to her velvet cloak to seduce—Cechev's, the gasping in the audience is as much for her bold gesture as it is for the

is for the exquisite art deco gown she wears so well.)

The aptly named Mark Strong gives a compelling performance as Dr. Mikhail Astrov in "Uncle Vanya." It is an impeccable exhibition of barely restrained vigor, lust (for Yelena) and self-destruction, all of the while managing to create a sexy, civil, even charming character. It is the tormented, real performance



Top-notch cast: Simon Russell Beale (left) in the title role of Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya," and Emily Watson as Yelena, disguised as Cesario, in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night."

ances of Simon Russell Beale, as Uncle Vanya, and Emily Watson, as his workhorse niece Sonya, that break the audience's heart. They transmit the play's power.

Watson was flabbergasted audiences with her riveting portrayals of unusual women, especially in her 1996 film debut—Oscar nominated—as Rosa McNeill in Lian Yor Turner's "Breaking the Waves." Watson received another Oscar nomination for his in "Twelfth Night."

When in the role of the homely Sonya in "Uncle Vanya," after rejection upon rejection, she finally laments that even schoolchildren have called her "Squidgy Sonya."—his reviewer was shamelessly unable to shut off the waterworks.

Beale plays the ambition-free Uncle Vanya, who charms with his cutting wit, generosity and consuming love for Yelena. He is magnificent as and he pines for her on the dining room table and when he literally grovels at her feet.

"Twelfth Night" is a different animal altogether—it is light-hearted, although in a subdued way—with heavily shaded worlds in mourning clothes and an ocean of flickering

candles behind them.

Beale is again excellent, this time as the supercilious, puritanical servant Malvolio with his grand ambition of a union with his mistress, Olivia. When his love for Olivia is mistaken for madness, his anguished pleas for help—even while hidden behind a mask and straitjacket—are as chilling. Beale becomes the victim of the nasty cruelty of which only humans are capable. His acting descent, from pederast steward, to preening peacock in his yellow socks hoping to secure Olivia's affection, to his final angry rebuke at the finale, is a masterpiece of performance.

There are, of course, many laughs to be had, supplied by the jester, Feste (Anthony O'Donnell), Sir Toby Belch (Paul Jesson) and Bradley as Aguecheik, who also double as a surprisingly lyrical and melodic a cappella trio.

Anthony Ward's set design provides an earth-bound background of tall, wavy grasses for "Uncle Vanya" beyond its rustic dining room, and he pines for her on the dining room table and when he literally grovels at her feet.

The large picture frame that stands center in "Twelfth Night" is a device that often tempts the comedy on stage by framing paint at times the

subject is a mournfully shrouded and grieving Olivia, and other times, it is Viola, missing her own brother, believed to have been drowned in their shipwreck.

Mendes, director of the Oscar-winning film "American Beauty," the Tony Award-winning production of "Cabaret" and the scandalously made Nicole Kidman in "The Blue Room," returned to BAM to direct these two productions as a grand finale to his 10-year run as founder and artistic director of the Donmar Warehouse. (Next, he will direct the Broadway revival of "Gypsy," starring audience member Peters, which opens in April.)

To understand why Mendes is so highly respected is to watch McCrory make her first entrance as Yelena. All is silent as she saunters across the width of the stage and lets a flower in her hand slowly swing through the air in an ennuied circle until it lands on the table in a satisfying whack. This is a perfect example of the perfect visual wit with which Mendes directs his actors.

Whether you see both plays on separate evenings or on the same day, the opportunity to see such talented actors undertake such radical transformations and still render top-notch performances in each, is too important to miss.

# WHERE TO GO

compiled by Susan Rosenblatt

THURS, JAN 23

**HEALTH LECTURE:** Lutherman Medical Center offers a talk on cardiac and lung disease, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free. 100 Shore Road. (718) 630-9230. Free.

**COMMUNITY MEETING:** Transportation Committee of Community Board 6. Discussion of planned subway station booth changes. 6:30 p.m. St. Mary's Rectory, 411 East St. (718) 645-3027.

**FILM AND FUNDRAISER:** Brooklyn Ethical Culture Society. "Brothers and Sisters: A documentary about the lives of Arab and South Asian families in the United States after beginning of immigration detention following Sept. 11." 7 p.m. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 482-3157. Free.

**WINE TASTING:** A Perfect Setting hosts a session on wines from France and New Zealand. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 102 Atlantic Ave. (718) 223-1888.

**BARNES AND NOBLE:** Beatrice Cobb, author of "Nude Unlabeled" and "Chasing Alice," 7 p.m. 106 Court St. (718) 244-4996. Free.

**BARGE MUSIC:** chamber music program of works by Debussy, Schumann, Stravinsky and Schoenberg. 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**MEETING:** Union Center for Women hosts an open meeting and members' 7:30 p.m. Myra Park Center, 418 95th St. (718) 748-7708. Free.

**WORKSHOP:** Susan Margolis offers a talk on her business Sanity T program to help self-employed professionals and small business owners. 7:30 p.m. Park Slope Food Coop, 282 Union St. (718) 499-2831. Free.

**LECTURE:** Stefano Carboni, associate curator, department of Islamic art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, presents slide lecture. 7:30 p.m. PS 321, 180 Seventh Ave. (718) 262-8475. Free.

**LOW BAR:** Playwright David Landman gives a staged reading. 8 p.m. 41 Washington St. (718) 223-1106. Free.

**GALAPAGOS CAFE:** Shakespeare, Teenage Prigents and Qatiz perform. 8 p.m. 410 North Sixth St. (718) 384-4356.

**BARNES BAR:** presents a "Summer Jam." 9 p.m. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

**RED ROOM LOUNGE:** presents saxophonist Andy Parsons. 9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. 444 Court St. (718) 875-1981.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents "Don't Call Us..." a musical revue. 8 p.m. See Sat.

**IMPACT THEATER:** presents "The Golden Boy." 8 p.m. See Sat.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Twelfth Night." 7:30 p.m. See Sat.

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. 227 Smith St. (718) 262-WAXY.

**INSIDER'S HOUR:** New Yorkers are invited to experience the best of Brooklyn's cultural organizations, in just an hour. Hour tours are available at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn Museum of Art and Prospect Park Zoo. Contact individual organizations. Or check out [www.insiderhour.com](http://www.insiderhour.com) (212) 464-1222.

**BROOKLYN LULU:** "31 Bond" 8 p.m. See Sat.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents "Don't Call Us..." a musical revue. 8 p.m. See Sat.

**OVERNIGHT ZOO EVENT:** Prospect Park Zoo hosts "Winter Warmth" event. Appropriate for ages 8 to 11. \$45, \$55 members. 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday. Call to pre-reg. (718) 399-7339.

**VERTICAL PLAYERS:** presents "The Dwarf," a comic opera. 8 p.m. 219 Court St. (212) 539-6266.

**GOOD COFFEEHOUSE:** Second annual Night of Magic features a line-up of magicians including The Magic Menagerie, Torkova and Marco Mommevendi. \$10 per ticket. 8 p.m. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 748-2972.

**KIDS CAFE:** Dancewave Inc. presents its ninth annual Kids Cafe Festival, a performance of dance, music and theater. Opening benefit performance features the Kids Company premiere of choreographer Donald Byrd's "Memories of Bittersweet Lives." \$100. 8 p.m. Brooklyn Music School, 126 St. Marks St. (718) 622-2548.

**BARNES BAR:** Harriet Medicine blues band plays Eastern European gypsy music. 8 p.m. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

**NO BOOTS:** Blues with Gene Ambert. 10 p.m. No cover. 114 Secor. (718) 868-5553.

**HALCYON CAFE:** Music by a variety of groups. \$5. 21+ 10 p.m.

compiled by Susan Rosenblatt

2 am, 227 Smith St. (718) 262-WAXY.

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**IMPACT THEATER:** presents "The Golden Boy." 8 p.m. See Sat.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Twelfth Night." 7:30 p.m. See Sat.

THEATER: XO Projects and Theater present "Cone." 7:15 and 9:30 p.m. See Sat.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Twelfth Night." 7:30 p.m. See Sat.

**IMPACT THEATER:** presents "The Golden Boy." 8 p.m. See Sat.

**SAT, JAN 25**

**BIRDING:** Learn elements of bird watching. Noon to 1:30 p.m. Audubon Center, Prospect Park near Union Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 267-3401. Free.

**ICE SKATING:** Wellness Park is open. \$4 adults, \$2 children. Skate rental \$4. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. Prospect Park. (718) 267-6431.

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BAM 718.636.4100 / [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org) / Ticketmaster 212.307.4100  
Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave

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## Tiny dancers

**Kids Cafe Fest features 'Pucci: Sport' and new work by Byrd**

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Dancers aren't born but nurtured, often starting from a very early age. And that's exactly what Diane Jacobowitz has been doing—with a little help from a roster of celebrity choreographers—for nine years with Kids Cafe Festival.

The festival is produced by Dancewave, an organization Jacobowitz founded in 1979 to produce arts events, festivals and educational workshops for children and young adults. This year's Kids Cafe Festival, at the Brooklyn Music School and Playhouse, included dance and sport workshops on Jan. 19, taught by the Peter Pucci Plus Dancers, a modern dance troupe whose namesake founder is a former all-American athlete and member of the modern dance group Phobias.

There will be an opening night benefit concert on Jan. 24, featuring Jacobowitz's own Kids Company in the work premiere of "Memories of Bitter-sweet Lives," a newly commissioned work created by modern dance

### DANCE

"Kids Cafe Festival 2003" will be held at The Brooklyn Music School and Playhouse, 120 St. Felix St., at Lafayette Avenue, at Fort Greene. The benefit concert, featuring "Memories of Bitter-sweet Lives" by Donald Byrd, is at 8 pm on Jan. 24. Tickets are \$100.

Festival performances of "Pucci: Sport" are at 3 pm on Jan. 25 and Jan. 26. Tickets are \$10 for children, \$15 for adults. For more information about the schedule, call (718) 522-4976. To make reservations for the festival performance or the benefit concert call (718) 622-2548 or visit [www.virtuosos.com](http://www.virtuosos.com) (NYC events) on the Web.

choreographer Donald Byrd. Kids Company has been working on the piece for an intensive 10-week rehearsal period with Byrd and his assistants.

The Peter Pucci Plus Dancers will also host Kids Cafe Festival performances and perform excerpts from "Pucci: Sport" on Jan. 25 and Jan. 26 at 3 pm. Kids participating in the workshops will perform in the part called "Basketball." And Nana Simopolous,

another festival host, will perform her own Greek- and Middle Eastern-influenced music at the festival.

Other festival performance highlights include the Shenandoah Contemporary Dance Theater and Gestures Ensemble from the Harbor Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Harlem.

Jacobowitz's Kids Company started in 2000 with "kids who really wanted to study dance more seriously," she says. Teenagers from throughout the city, who make it through an audition process, benefit from the program's professional environment that both challenges and encourages.

Using space in the Berkeley Carroll School in Park Slope and the Mark Morris studio in Fort Greene, the teenagers work with internationally known American choreographers like Twyla Tharp, David Dorfman, Doug Varone and Bill T. Jones. This spring Kids Company will again work with Morris, who since his group's move to Fort Greene, has been closely involved with the company, creating original pieces just for them.

Noah Weiss, a junior at Stuyvesant High School, has been with Kids Company for four years. "Being a part of a company and not in a class makes me feel that what I'm doing is more important. You don't only have an obligation to yourself, but also to everyone else in the company. There's a sense of camaraderie," he told GO Brooklyn.

Noah, who lives in Park Slope, has danced in pieces by Mark Morris, David Dorfman and Donald Byrd.

"This gives me an opportunity to have a challenge in dance because we're working with professional choreographers and doing professional pieces," he said.

In December, Noah performed with Kids Company at the Dancers Responding to AIDS benefit concert at the St. Marks in the Bowery Church, and at a Christmas concert at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center.

These kinds of events help Noah "get a taste of what it might be like to be a part of a professional company."

And he's excited, he says because "I get to share months of work with an audience, and I get a feeling of accomplishment."

Noah is not sure whether he wants to be a professional dancer, but he does know that dance will always be a big part of his life. He is one of a group of 20 youths choreographer-dancer Jacobowitz is working with this year.

"I've worked with kids my whole life," she says. "I became a mother in the early '90s. I got the idea then of focusing on kids. It's an important focus now. It's close to my heart."

The festival gives youngsters in Kids Company and throughout the city and beyond the opportunity to learn, to share and to show off. And it gives proud parents the chance to see their kids at their most enthusiastic and graceful.

### PERFORMANCES

**LIBRARY EVENT:** Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, observes Chinese New Year and celebrates "Year of the Sheep" with performances and programs. 2 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

**BROOKLYN LYCEUM** presents "31 Bands," a play based on a real 1981 letter from the Village Voice. \$10 students and seniors. 7 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 866-9000.

**THEATER:** XO Projects and Theater present "Craw," a play about four people crawling each other and the need to break free. \$15, \$10 students. 3 and 7:15 pm. Old American Can Factory, Third Street and Third Avenue. (718) 608-6336.

**BARGEMUSEUM** chamber music program of works by Gershwin, Beethoven, Mozart, Dvorak and Debussy. \$35, \$20 pm. Also free midday concert at 1 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music

presents Donmar Warehouse's production of the play "Twelfth Night." \$75, \$55, \$30. 2 pm. Also, "Black Veilings." \$55, \$30, \$10. 8 pm. Harvey Milk. 551 Fulton St. (718) 636-4111.

**GALLERY PLAYERS** presents "Don't Call Us," a musical revue. \$15, \$12 children 12 and younger and seniors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

**CONCERT:** Frederick Ivins conducts a concert of works by Morley, Elgar, Rutter, Thompson and Delius. \$5 donation. 8 pm. All Saints Church, Seventh Avenue and Seventh Street. (718) 636-1492.

**IMPACT THEATER** presents Clifford Odets' drama "The Golden Boy." \$15. 8 pm. 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 390-7163.

**ABOVE THE RIGHT BANK:** Music by a variety of groups. \$5. 8 pm. 409 Kent Ave. (718) 388-3929.

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### LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Where to GO**, please give us as much notice as possible. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 26 Court St., Ste. 506, Brooklyn, NY 11241, or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

**By:** Performers obsess, rant, crib, suicide notes, drink and torture one another. In small ways. \$12. 9 pm. 146 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 388-2251.

**ABOVE THE RIGHT BANK:** Kitz Kitz presents "The Golden Boy." \$15. 8 pm. 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 390-7163.

**BARBERS BAR:** evening of traditional and non-traditional Scottish music in celebration of Robert Burns birthday. 7 pm. 374 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

**TWO BOOTS:** presents blues with Night Wiggas. 10 pm. no cover.

12 and younger and museum members. 4 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

**OTHER THEATER:** The Brooklyn Community Council sponsor a trip to Hurlerston Hills. Playhouse. Show at Cowboyc Cafe. \$50 includes transportation, lunch and show. 12:30 am to 5 pm. (718) 934-2952.

**OPEN STUDIO:** Small Medium Artist Studio Program presents works by its 2002 Studio Artists. Noon to 9 pm. Artist reception from 6-9 pm. 20 Washington St. (718) 422-0989. Free.

**ADOPTION WORKSHOP:** Latin American Parents Association of New York hosts a talk covering documentation preparation, selecting a source, and adoption requirements. 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Our Lady of Grace Church, 100 West 4th St. (718) 236-8699. Free.

**AFRICAN WORKSHOP:** The Brooklyn Museum of Art offers a workshop on "Fencing and Sewing Quilts." Bring scrap fabric, thread and needles. 2 to 5 pm. Call for fee information and pre-registration. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 501-4937.

**RECEPTION:** The Skylight Gallery hosts a reception for "The Fable of the Magpie." Media exhibit. 4 to 7 pm. 1368 Fulton St. (718) 636-6996. Free.

**INDIGO CAFE:** Montrose Greenwood reads her book, "Thieving What Matters." 7 to 8:30 pm. 672 Fulton St. (718) 488-9934. Free.

**MIDWINTER NIGHT:** Park Slope United Methodist Church hosts an evening of storytelling, music and theater for all ages. 6:30 pm. Sixth Avenue at Eighth Street. (718) 744-3093.

**NEW YEAR CELEBRATION:** Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts a pre-Chinese New Year event. Activities include zongzi, holiday traditions, Chinese astrology, calligraphy and more. 7 pm. Refreshments and music. \$20. Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.

**SOCK HOP:** The Casino performs. \$50 per person includes buffet. Filles attire please. Our Lady of Angels gym, 337 74th St. (718) 876-8000.

**BREAD AND TORAH:** Celebration of 10 years of Kodesh Chaiyim. Honorees include Rabbi Ellen. Continued on next page...

## BROOKLYN HEIGHTS INTERNATIONAL Jewish Film Festival

We have devised a relaxed cinematic forum where one can encounter the most enduring and fascinating culture in the world today. Question-and-answer sessions will follow screenings, bringing together filmmakers and experts from the community to discuss in depth the issues presented in the films.

### The Mad Adventures of Rabbi Jacob

A New York rabbi travels to Paris and gets mixed up in a comedy of errors. This is complicated by a broad slapstick farce about a bigoted businessman (Louis de Funès as Victor Pivert) who is forced to disguise himself as a rabbi. With echoes of alien-screen humor, this film is golden in some circles as one of the funniest films ever made. Nominated for the 1974 Golden Globe Awards. Featuring post-screening discussion with Mr. Paul Rothman, Independent filmmaker of Founder of the Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival.

### Time of Favor

Winner of six Israeli Oscars including Best Picture, Time of Favor is a taut thriller about the tense relationship between Orthodox Jewish Nationalists and the military. An Orthodox soldier finds his loyalty torn between his Rabbi and his commanding officer. Featuring post-screening discussion with a representative of the Israeli consulate.

### Leon the Pig Farmer

In this young British satire, Leon Geller is a "nice Jewish boy" who accidentally discovers that his biological father is a gentle pig farmer in Yorkshire. As he considers the differing lifestyles of the two sets of parents, Leon has to make a decision about his future. Featuring post-screening discussion with Simcha Weinstein, former associate of the British Film Commission.

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**Upcoming Performances**

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Tickets: \$30

**Aesop's Fables**  
TheatreworksUSA  
SUN • FEB 2, 2003 • 2PM  
sponsored by OmniGroupChase  
Ages 5 - 10 • Tickets: \$15

Brooklyn Center debut  
**Dang Thai Son**  
SUN • FEB 2, 2003 • 2PM  
sponsored by MURRAY BERMAN FOUNDATION  
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# poetry

## Poet laureate looking to reward borough's budding wordsmiths

By Paulanno Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

What Whitman must be smiling. His beloved Brooklyn, the borough that inspired his greatest work, is finally giving poets the recognition they need. Borough President Mary Matarazzo is launching "Brooklyn Poetry Outreach," a monthly poetry reading series at the Park Slope Barnes & Noble, 267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street. The reading will feature an adult poet selected by Brooklyn Poet Laureate Ken Siegelman followed by an open mic and finally a young poet chosen by Siegelman.

Siegelman is inviting students from elementary through high school to submit their best work to him. The selected young poet's parents, relatives and friends, as well as community leaders and the public are invited to attend the readings, during which the youngster will be awarded a certificate of recognition from the borough president. [All winning poems will appear on the borough president's Web site at [www.brooklyn-usa/index2.html](http://www.brooklyn-usa/index2.html), along with the poet laureate's poem of the month.]

The program is really the brainchild of Siegelman, who was appointed poet laureate on Jan. 24, 2003. "The position of poet laureate was left open to whatever ideas the poet laureate had," Siegelman told GO.

### POETRY

"Brooklyn Poetry Outreach," a monthly poetry reading series hosted by Brooklyn Poet Laureate Ken Siegelman, at the Park Slope Barnes & Noble, 267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street, begins Jan. 29 at 6:30 pm with poet-singer Marion Palm. Open mic sign-up begins at 6 pm. For more information, call (718) 855-9066.

Poems will be judged by their artful use of poetic devices, sensitivity to social issues and the inventiveness of their personal search. Send entries to Ken Siegelman, 2225 W. Fifth St., Brooklyn, NY 11223.

Brooklyn, "I expanded it to include the reading series to make poetry a more inclusive vehicle for all Brooklynites."

Siegelman believes the position should not be merely an honorary one to advance the career of the poet. "There are many different poet groups in Brooklyn, but they are not localized and don't meet each other," he said. "I thought it would be a good idea to bring together all these groups in a prestigious place — Barnes & Noble — a beautiful, beautiful location. This will be a tremendous incentive that has not existed before for both professional and amateur poets."

Siegelman, who was 57 when he became poet laureate, taught social studies for 34 years, 32 of them at Abraham Lincoln High School in Coney Island. While

he was teaching, Siegelman came up with the interesting innovation of using poetry to teach social studies to his students, many of whom were learning English as a second language.

"Language was the only thing that stood in their way," said Siegelman. "So I used my poetry to bridge the language gap."

At first teachers and publishers were skeptical. Siegelman said they asked, "What would a social studies teacher know about poetry?"

He showed them that poetry could personalize the subject and induce critical thinking.

"In two of my books, 'Urbania' and 'American Imprints,' for each poem I created a brief synopsis of the social and political context with which the poem was written and one or four critical thinking questions, which forced the reader to question what the poet was actually saying," he said.

Despite the initial skepticism, "When it took off, it was extremely slow," said Siegelman.

Today, Siegelman is the author of nine books of poetry, three of which have been distributed by Teachers' Discovery, Discovery Enterprises and the Gifted Education Press, as well as the Baugher's of Swedish Imports. And three of his books have been purchased by the Rockefeller Library at Brown University.



Brooklyn's Poet Laureate Ken Siegelman

The Brooklyn Papers / Craig Marjono

One of Siegelman's favorite subjects is the neighborhoods of Brooklyn in all of their glorious diversity. In "Gerritsen Beach" he writes, "Green cut-out Shanties/Still trial many of the front windows, clustering/At Easter/Much the way some outside Christmas lights/Always seem to linger well into mid-February." In "Bensonhurst," Siegelman gives Brooklynites heroic grandeur. "It was the fathers, Grandfathers/And all their sons/Circled in parked Buicks with the passion/Of hot blooded Romans who never read/Shakespeare/Or heard of the Renaissance..."

The poetry series will begin on Jan. 29 with poet-singer Marion Palm reading. Palm, who lives in Sunset Park with her son and their two cats, is the daughter of Swedish immigrants. Her work is archived in the Oral History collection at the National Museum of Naturalization and Im-

migration on Ellis Island, where she is recorded reading a poem about her grandmother Theresa coming to America with her son, Sven. Palm is the author of six chapbooks. Her poetry speaks to the condition of recent immigrants: separation from family, striving to fit in, expectations and disappointments of those who must negotiate between two languages and two different cultures. After working with Markowitz on this project, Siegelman believes he and the borough president have something in common. "All his life Marty aspired to be a borough president," says Siegelman. "And all my life I've wanted to be a poet laureate."

New Siegelman is proud to be part of the borough president's plan to "provide morale and a revitalized sense for Brooklyn and to reach out to Brooklyn's rich heritage."

## OMNI...

Continued from page G 01

"Enti' acte," a lovely miniature originally composed for flute and guitar. The Debussy Sonata for Flute, Violin and Harp where Wechsler is an member of the faculty. With 100 seats, he considers it "the perfect size for the 20th years of performing for loyal audiences in Brooklyn."

He also plays flute in the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra — Wechsler weighs in on the continuing debate of classical music.

"I don't think classical music is dying," he states. "I think it goes through phases, and part of the problem is that there's a proliferation of other entertainment sources that compete with what is essentially a finite audience."

"But it's not an entirely dead issue," he continues. "Opera is growing, and has been for the last 10 years. And with 'La Boheme' on Broadway and Mark Morris' version

## MUSIC

The Omni Ensemble, with guest artists Laura Sherman and Sam Kephart, are performing by Beethoven, Debussy, Ravel and Brahms at Lincoln Place in Park Slope. Tickets are \$15, \$12 students and \$8 seniors. For more information, visit [www.omniensemble.org](http://www.omniensemble.org) on the Web or call (718) 859-8449.

of 'The Nutcracker' (The Hard Nut) at BAM, it opens up standard places to new audiences with a new look and sensibility. I think there's hope."

Part of that hope is a musical group that Wechsler has helped form at the Conservatory of Music.

"We've started a community group, and there's been a big response from people looking to participate in the music in a more hands-on fashion," he explains. "This, in turn, makes them better audience participants. The biggest challenge is to get a response from the younger generation, which we are — we're getting a range from high school kids to adults in their 50s."

Such groups take Wechsler back to his youth: "When I

was growing up in Brooklyn, there were several groups like this, including one in Borough Park that I played in. Education is the key, and we are now bringing music education to schools. It's music through the ages, from baroque to contemporary."

Through its concerts and teaching, Wechsler is trying to ensure that audiences of all ages enjoy the delights that classical music can bring.

"When you're young, you think it's old-fashioned," he says. "But that always changes the more you learn, the more you know and the more you hear."

## WHERE TO GO...

**Continued from previous page...**

**ILLUSTRATIONS AND COMEDY.** 8 p.m. St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Hall, Fourth Avenue and Eighth Street, (718) 768-9471.

**PUPPETWORKS:** "The Prince and the Pea," 7:30 p.m. See Sat., Jan. 25.

**BASEBALL REGISTRATION:** Prospect Youth Council will host registration for the spring season. 1 to 5 p.m. See Sat.

**KIDS CAFE:** Children's Experiences Café, 3 p.m. See Sat.

**OTHER:**

**BLOOD DRIVE:** at East Midwood Jewish Center, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. 1625 Ocean Ave., (800) 852-8000.

**TALMUD CLASSES:** Congregation Beth Elohim, 7:30 p.m. See Sat.

**LECTURE SERIES:** Congregation Beth Elohim hosts a learning series entitled "Jerusalem Was A Prophet." Reading is from the Book of Jeremiah. 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. See Sat.

**TIKVUN TALK:** Midrashic lecture, an organizer for Tikvun, Jewish magazine and social change organization, speaks at Brooklyn Society for Jewish Culture, 11 a.m. 53 Prospect Park West, (718) 768-2772.

**BROOKLYN MUSEUM OF ART:** curator talk by Charlotte Korkin on "The Dinner Party." Included in museum admission of \$6, free for members and children 12 and under. 1 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway, (718) 638-5000.

**CIVIL LIBERTY TALK:** Civil Liberties attorney Lynne Stewart speaks on "MILAB, Lash Point and Control Gaze." Stewart represents the Iranian cleric Sherk Abdol-Rahman. 1:30 p.m. Park Avenue United Methodist Church, Sixth Avenue at Eighth Street, (718) 768-3909.

**RUSSIAN AUTHOR SERIES:** presents author Ilya Shcherbakov. 7 p.m. Grand Army Plaza, (718) 232-2100.

**BARBERS BAR:** presents a Posh New Year's Eve. 9 p.m. See Sat.

**DAVE KEMER WITH DAVE FOSTER AND MARK HUMBLE:** 9 p.m. See Sat.

**THEATRE:** 10 Projects and Theater presents "Crawd," 7:30 p.m. See Sat.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents "Don't Call Us," a musical revue. 3 p.m. See Sat.

**BROOKLYN VECUM:** presents 31 Bond. 3 p.m. See Sat.

**IMPACT THEATRE:** presents "The Golden Boy." 3 p.m. See Sat.

**VERTICAL PLAYERS:** "The Dwell," 3 p.m. See Fri., Jan. 24.



The fallout from 9-11 continues.

The Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music scheduled to perform a Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music recital with pianist Sara Davis Buechner at 3 p.m. on Jan. 26, however, the Manhattan, Canada-based group is unable to enter the country in time for the concert due to the indefinite extension of the visa application process put into place by the Immigration and Naturalization Service following the terrorist attacks, according to Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music manager Wanda Fleck.

Instead of cancelling the performance, Buechner will give a solo recital on that date and at the same location, the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, on Lafayette Avenue in Sunset Park. Buechner — a faculty member of New York University who has performed with the New York Philharmonic and has just returned from a Japanese tour — will perform a program featuring music from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Opening with Mozart's Sonata in D major, Buechner then plays Chopin's Sonata No. 3 in B minor before entering less-trodden piano territory. The six "Salon Pieces" of Rudolf Firl are light-hearted works, as are George Gershwin's five "Rhapsodies." Buechner wraps up her recital with George Wein's rhapsody "Rhapsody in Blue," in a solo piano version.

The Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music hopes to have the Brooklyn and the Sorella Quartet return to perform the called Schumann quartet next season, said Fleck.

Tickets are \$15, \$5 students. For reservations, call (718) 855-2653.

## Show must go on

**9-30 pm, 50 Monroe Place.** (718) 595-2940. Free.

**BARNES AND NOBLE:** Cof Poetry Jan session featuring selected poets from Rudin Simmons Bookstore play "Caf Poetry Jan." 7:30 p.m. 207 Seventh Ave. (718) 852-9066. Free.

**LECTURE:** Congregation Beth Elohim continues its lecture series, "Thinking You're Making Me A Woman." Learn about the status of women according to Jewish law. 8 p.m. 117 Remsen St. (718) 682-1827. Free.

**BARNES AND NOBLE:** presents "Farefare" (1969). 9 p.m. 376 Broadway, (718) 768-3909.

**SEMINAR:** M & T Bank hosts a talk on long-term care and elder law issues. 7:00 PM. AVE. Call: (718) 680-0200. Free.

**HALCYON CAFE:** Music collection. Many features folk, music, jazz, blues, and more. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. No cover. 221 South St. (718) 260-9400.

**AUDITION:** Narrows Community Center. 7:30 p.m. See Sat.

**"Hello, Dolly!"** Bring sheet music and a vocal solo. 10:30 pm. OLA Auditorium, 746 Broadway, (718) 623-0200. (718) 482-3173.

**HEALTH:** Senior citizens invited. 12:30 to 2 p.m. Heights and Community Center, 160 Montague St. (718) 595-8787. Free.

**BOOK GROUP:** Urban Roots book group discusses memoir, "Finding Ed," by Arlene Quinlan Fisher. 7 p.m. 106 East St. (718) 246-4999. Free.

**BANK:** presents Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya." featuring actress Emily Watson. 5:35, 5:55, 5:30, 7:30. (718) 768-2772.

**MEETING:** Community Council meets. 7:30 p.m. 376 Broadway and 8th Avenue. (718) 234-2501.

**BRIC Studio:** presents Vanya. Directed by Maria Alfano, founding member of the group. Jan. 26, 8 p.m. 58 Stanton. (718) 637-2424. Free.

**MEETING:** Community Council Board, District 15. 7:30 p.m. Middle School 278, 410 Henry St. (718) 330-9283.

**BARNES AND NOBLE:** presents "Uncle Vanya." 7:30 p.m. See Sat.

**HALCYON CAFE:** Music with Mx. No cover. 9 p.m. 221 South St. (718) 260-9400.

**OPEN STUDIO:** Snack Melton Artist Studio Program presents works by its 2002 Studio Artists. Noon to 6 p.m. See Sat.

**PLAY:** Royal Theater Company presents "Miss Julia." 8 p.m. See Sat.

**SKATE FOR FREE:** Prospect Park. 6 p.m. See Sat.

Heating \* 4 p.m. \$15. Court St. (718) 858-0357. Free.

**BARNES AND NOBLE:** hosts an open mic poetry night featuring a prominent Brooklyn poet. 8 p.m. 207 Seventh Ave. (718) 852-9066. Free.

**MEDITATION:** Learn about yoga. 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library, Carroll Gardens branch, 396 Clinton St. (718) 833-5751. Free.

**KASABIAN TALKS:** Brooklyn Heights Synagogue hosts Yiddish baum in a talk. "Kasabian as a member." 7 to 8:30 p.m. 131 E. 12th St. (718) 523-2007.

**POLICE TALK:** 68th Police Precinct hosts a talk on police work to protect your children. 7 p.m. 24th St. and 4th Ave. (718) 439-2424. Free.

**MEETING:** Community Council Board, District 15. 7:30 p.m. Middle School 278, 410 Henry St. (718) 330-9283.

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**THURS. JAN 30**

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